

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
Kansas
COUNTY:
Atchison
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME	
COMMON:	Muchnic, H. E., House (preferred name)
AND/OR HISTORIC:	Howell, George W., House

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 704 North 4th Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Atchison		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: No. 2, Bill Roy	
STATE Kansas	CODE 66002	COUNTY: Atchison	CODE 005

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: Muchnic Foundation		STATE: Kansas	
STREET AND NUMBER: 107 North 6th Street		COUNTY: Atchison	
CITY OR TOWN: Atchison	STATE: Kansas	CODE 66002	CODE 20

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Register of Deeds			
STREET AND NUMBER: Atchison County Courthouse			
CITY OR TOWN: Atchison	STATE: Kansas	CODE 20	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: NONE			
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

005-0260-012

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Muchnic house is an irregularly shaped 14-room, three-story building with a basement. The Victorian house faces west and features a circular tower at the southwest corner. The house is situated in an old tree-filled residential neighborhood, and with its carriage house and grounds it occupies a one-fourth block area which is circumscribed by a low stone wall and/or a hedge.

The exterior walls are constructed of smooth red brick trimmed in limestone. The facade is broken by several limestone belt courses at the floor lines and at window sill lines. The south facade features a protruding balcony area constructed of wood with very intricately detailed wood trim extending to the covering roof. The southwest corner is one of the highlights of the house; the circular tower with curved windows is topped by a cone-shaped roof over a balcony accessible from the third floor ballroom. The entry porch covers the southwest corner of the house and includes a circular type porch around the curved tower.

The roof form is a combined hip and gable with dormers of varying size and design that function as balcony roofs and allow light to the third floor. The slate shingling is original. The ridge varies in height, adding contrast to the roof elevations. The three brick chimneys extend well above the ridge to add height to the building's appearance.

The windows are simple rectangles with wood frames. The window widths vary in size.

The interior is very luxurious. The first floor has cast bronze hardware, extensive carved woodwork and features parquet floors of mahogany, oak and walnut. Every room has a different floor pattern. The carved faces on the newel posts in the hall are said to represent members of the Howell family (the builder). There are leaded stained glass windows above the front doors, in the panels of the inner front doors, in the windows on the stairway, and in the conservatory below the main stair case. Other interior features are the four fireplaces, one in the library, two in the parlors, and one in the hall; the fireplaces have wood mantels and imported glazed tile. In the rear there is a spiral staircase extending three stories to a ballroom on the third floor. The tall mirrors which extend to the eleven-foot ceiling in the upper and lower main halls are original furnishings.

The first floor and a number of rooms on the second floor are furnished as the Muchnic family had them. Some of the second floor rooms are now used by the Atchison Art Association for exhibits. The kitchen and part of the second floor are used by the caretaker. The large open space of the third floor was originally used as a ballroom but is presently unused.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1887-1888			
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			
<p>This house was built in 1887-1888 for George W. Howell, a prominent Atchison wholesale lumber dealer. The plans were drawn by a local architect, W. F. Wood, and are said to have reflected the wishes of Mrs. Howell. The brick work was done by C. W. Benning and George W. Houghton served as general construction foreman. For several years prior to the construction, Mr. Howell reportedly collected beautiful woods to use in the interior. Upon its completion the Atchison <u>Daily Champion</u> stated, "The new residence of George W. Howell, in this city, is probably the largest and finest residence in Kansas." Construction costs were estimated at \$16,000 for the house and an additional \$3,000 for the carriage house.</p> <p>Around 1891 the ownership of the house passed to Don Carlos Newcomb, an established dry goods dealer and long time Atchison resident. The Newcomb family continued to reside at the home until well into the 20th century.</p> <p>In 1922, the house was acquired for \$9,000 by Harry E. Muchnic, an extremely successful Atchison industrialist and founder of the Locomotive Finished Material Company, which later became a subsidiary of North American Rockwell. The building is now owned by the Muchnic Foundation and maintained as it was when occupied by the Muchnic family. A portion of the house is frequently used as a gallery by the Atchison Art Association.</p> <p>The house was built by one of Atchison's leading entrepreneurs at a time when the city was experiencing great economic growth. The fortunes of many were made as Atchison developed into a regional center of commerce, finance and industry. Many large elaborate homes were constructed at that time, but few have survived as unchanged on both exterior and interior as has the Muchnic house.</p> <p>This stately mansion, with its furnishings, stands as a good illustration of Kansas Victorian architecture constructed in the "boom" years of the 1880's. The different owners of the house played significant roles in the economic growth and development of the community.</p>			

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(Continuation Sheet)

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7. The house is not open to the general public except by appointment and on the days the art association has its showings.

An elevator between the first and second floors was built into the south balcony when one of the occupants experienced health problems in the late 1920's or 1930's.

The exterior and most of the interior have been little changed from their original appearance.

9. "A Notable Bank," Atchison Daily Globe, August 24, 1906.
St. Louis Globe-Democrat, Nov. 17, 1889.
Taggart, Judith Ferrell, editor, Atchison, Kansas: Miracle City
(Shawnee Mission, Kan., The Promo Co., n.d.).

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"An Area Leader Dies," Kansas City Star, June 26, 1958.
Atchison City Directories (various publishers, 1887-1971).
Atchison Daily Champion, July 24, 1887, Jan. 1, 1888, April 29, 1888.
Atchison Daily Globe, July 16, 1894.
 "Atchison's Rich Folks, Topeka Mail and Breeze, April 1, 1898.
 "Harry E. Muchnic," El Dorado Times, June 30, 1958.
 Ingalls, Sheffield, History of Atchison County (Standard Publishing Co.,
 Lawrence, Kan., 1916), pp. 424-427.
 "The Muchnic Gallery" (Atchison Art Association, Atchison, Kan., n.d.).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 0 0	0 0 0		39 34 07	95 07 01	
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: one acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:		Charles Hall, Architectural Consultant Richard Pankratz, Planner	
ORGANIZATION	Kansas State Historical Society	DATE	Nov. 30, 1973
STREET AND NUMBER: 120 West Tenth Street			
CITY OR TOWN:	Topeka	STATE	Kansas 66612
			20

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

Name Nyle H. Miller
 Nyle H. Miller
 Title Executive Director
 Kansas State Historical Society

Date December 3, 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS